

# Youth of Color NEWSLETTER

June 2013

## Youth of Color Newsletter: Spring Edition

Things are rolling along with the Youth of Color Coalition. Thanks to the PREP grant, the SiHLE team is excited to show off our new uniforms and incentives for the SiHLE program! Pictured are new items including SiHLE bags, lip gloss, lanyards, and shirts!

## Faith Forum 2

On Thursday April 4, 2013, the Youth of Color Coalition hosted a second Faith Forum. The Faith Forum brought together various pastors from African American churches in Iowa to discuss strategies to lower the STD/teen pregnancy rates among African American teens in our county. Faith leaders were provided with national and local sexual health statistics about African Americans, including the teen population, and the health disparities our African American teens continue to suffer with. Guest speakers were from Allen Hospital and the Office of Minority Health. Among the attendees, five churches were represented including a church from Fort Dodge. During our brainstorming session, faith leaders discussed why the church ignores these important issues. It was admitted that many faith leaders feel guilt when discussing sexual health with teenagers due to their own past. Faith leaders discussed



the importance of being open with their congregation and moving the feelings of guilt out the way to better serve African American teens. As a result of the forum, four of the churches have agreed to partner with the Youth of Color Coalition to provide their congregation with some type of pregnancy prevention session.

## FREE Training Opportunity: Measuring Health Disparities Course

This free, interactive, computer-based course focuses on some basic issues for public health practice - how to understand, define, and measure health disparity. The course has been made possible through funding from the Health Resources and Services Administration, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Michigan Public Health Training Center, Center for Social Epidemiology and Population Health, and Prevention Research Center of Michigan. [Click here for more information, and to access the course.](#)

## Help Wanted!

Communities In Schools  
Bi-lingual Adolescent Sexual Health Educator  
Part-Time Position Opening  
The Together For Youth Coalition is currently seeking a contracted health educator to provide adolescent sexual health programming in local schools and youth serving agencies. This individual will facilitate TFY's ¡Cúidate! curricula, newsletters, data compilation, and represent TFY at various community meetings. This position is currently offered part-time (12-20 hr/wk) with a competitive

## Calender

SiHLE Summer Session  
June 17- June 20, 2013  
10:00am-2:00pm at Allen College  
SiHLE July Summer Session  
July 22-July 26  
10:00am-2:00pm at Allen College

## May is National Teen Pregnancy Prevention Month

Together For Youth is promoting Teen Pregnancy Prevention Month by encouraging students at East and West High Schools to take the National Day Quiz. Staff members will be located at Success Street sites in the schools handing out Teen Survival Kits to students who come take the quiz. Success Street provides services to students that include, but are not limited to, mental health counseling, pregnancy prevention education, STD testing and education, and substance abuse resources. Teens at a local Young Leaders in Action Conference helped assemble the Teen Survival Kits while learning about Teen Pregnancy Prevention Month and Together For Youth. Together For Youth also had a mayoral proclamation declaring that May is Teen Pregnancy Prevention Month read at the Waterloo, Cedar Falls, and Waverly city council meetings. The mayors, as well as Iowa legislators and area teachers received picture frames that held a graph showing a decline in teen pregnancies in Black Hawk County compared to an increase in Together For Youth programming in the community. Attached to the frame was a button stating, "Picture This! A World With Zero Teen Pregnancies..." Young Arena in Waterloo also agreed to announce May as Teen Pregnancy Prevention Month on their big electronic sign for community members to see as they drive by.

There has been a great decline in the U.S. of numbers of teen pregnancies, but it still remains an issue, particularly among African American and Latina teens. Rates of unintended pregnancy, HIV, and sexually transmitted infection (STI), are disproportionately high among youth of color when compared to other youth. The proportion of high school students who have sex differs significantly by ethnicity. Rates are highest among African American students (60%), followed by Hispanic (49%), and Caucasian students (44%). Latina teens currently have the highest birth rate among all teens, more than one and a half times higher than the overall teen birth rate. About 4 in 10 (44%) of Latina teens became pregnant at least once before age 20, which is nearly twice the national average.

There are many programs and services offered locally for pregnancy prevention and sexual education. **Together for Youth** is your area's adolescent pregnancy prevention and a support network for teen parents. For more information, please feel free to contact Joni Spencer at 319-274-6768 ext. 1. **Cuidate** is an evidence based group for Hispanic teens between the ages of 13 and 18. That promotes the education of teen pregnancy prevention, healthy relationships, knowledge and awareness of HIV/AIDS and STD's. For more information contact: Erin Cubit at 319-235-5088 ext. 4. **SiHLE** (Sisters Informing, Healing, Living and Empowering) is also a culturally specific program offered for African American girls ages 14-18. The group focuses on pregnancy and HIV prevention, but also empowering teenage girls to be advocates for their own health and safety.

If you or someone you know is interested, please contact Heather Roby at 319-274-6768 ext. 4. Planned Parenthood in Cedar Falls offers Pregnancy/STD testing and services, several forms of birth control, and emergency contraception. Contact: 877-811-7526.

